Tax Year 2022 Wage File Upload Tutorial

Step-By-Step Instructions for Submitting a Wage File through the Wage File Upload program

Follow these instructions to submit a W-2 Wage File or a W-2c Wage File to the Social Security Administration (SSA) using the Wage File Upload program.

For information on preparing formatted W-2 files for electronic filing (EFW2, formerly MMREF-1), or W-2c files (EFW2C, formerly MMREF-2), go to the Specifications for Filing Forms W-2 and W-2c (EFW2/EFW2C) page on the employer web site.

All pages for the application are the same whether the file format is EFW2 or EFW2C.

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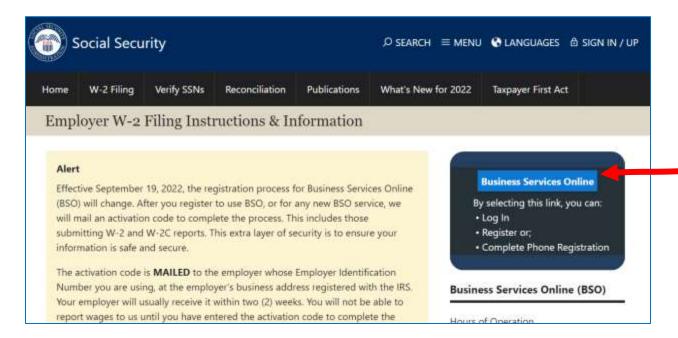
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1 Navigating to the Wage File Upload Page

Please see the Business Services Online (BSO) tutorial for comprehensive instructions on navigating BSO. See the BSO Overview tutorial for comprehensive instructions on navigating the EWR Home page.

Here are step-by-step instructions for accessing the wage file upload program from the BSO landing page.

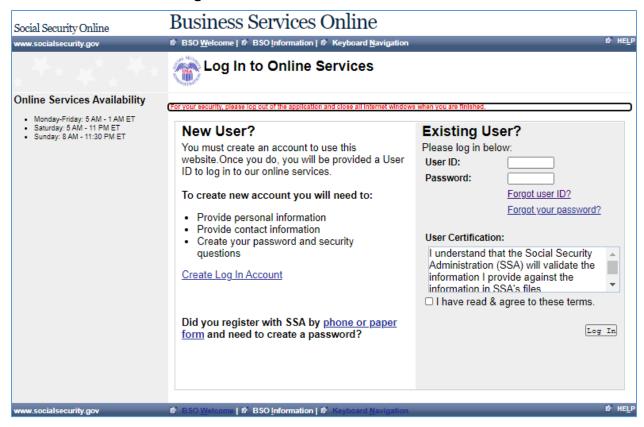
Start at https://www.ssa.gov/employer/.
 Select the Business Services Online link to get to the Business Services Online page.



2. Select the **Log In** button.



- 3. The system displays the Log In to Online Services page.
 - a. To continue logging on, enter your User ID and Password.
 - Read the User Certification and select the I have read & agree to these terms check box.
 - c. Select the Log In button.



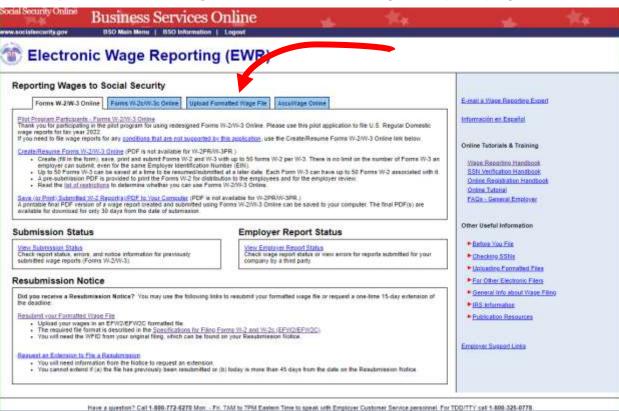
4. The system displays the BSO *Main Menu* page. Select the **Report Wages To Social Security** link.



5. The system displays the *Wage Reporting Attestation* page. To go to the *EWR home* page, read the User Certification for Electronic Wage Reporting and click on the **I Accept** button.



6. The system displays the *Electronic Wage Reporting (EWR)* home page. Select the **Upload Formatted Wage File** tab to access the Wage File Upload program.



7. Select the **Submit a Formatted Wage File** link to start the wage file upload program.

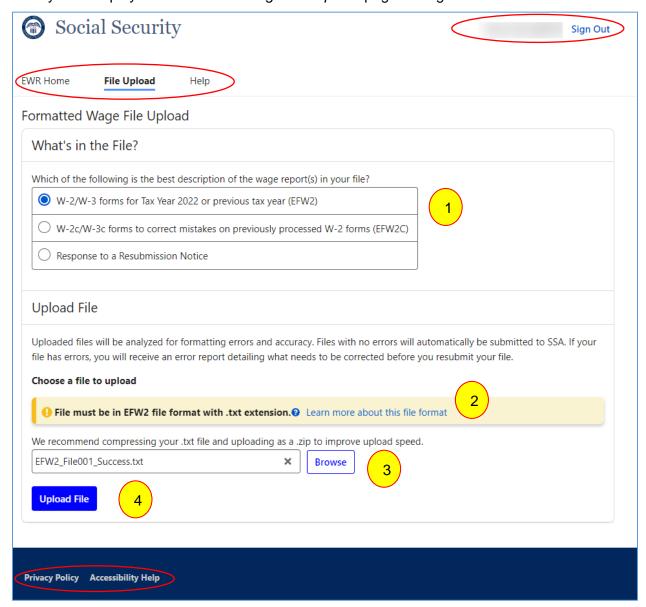


Note: If you received a resubmission notice and want to resubmit a previously submitted wage file, you can use either the "Resubmit your Formatted Wage File" link or the "Submit A Formatted Wage File" link above. See Resubmitting a Wage File below for more information.

2 Using the File Upload Function

2.1 Formatted Wage File Upload Page

The system displays the Formatted Wage File Upload page in stages.



Note:

All pages have the same header and footer (circled items above).

- Quick link to EWR Home at top left.
- File Upload link next to EWR Home.
- Help link next to EWR Home. The Help popup has links to the EFW2 and EFW2C file specifications and this tutorial. It also has the Phone, Fax, and Email address for support personnel.
- Your name at the top right. Please let us know if your name is incorrect.
- Sign Out link signs you out of the Wage File Upload application and asks if you
 want to sign out of BSO as well.
- The Privacy Policy link takes you to SSA's privacy policy page.
- The Accessibility Help link takes you to SSA's accessibility help page.

Referring to the screen shot in the previous page:

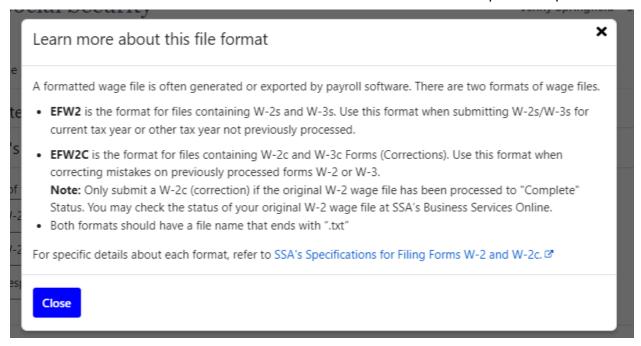
 The "What's in the File" section is the first stage of the file upload process. Select W-2/W-3 forms for an initial W-2 submission; the file format is EFW2. Select W-2c/W-3c forms to correct an existing W-2 submission; the file format is EFW2C.

Select **Response to a Resubmission Notice** to resubmit an existing wage submission. Use this selection only if you received a resubmission notice.

After selecting W-2/W-3 forms or W-2c/W-3c forms, the system displays the "File Upload" section.

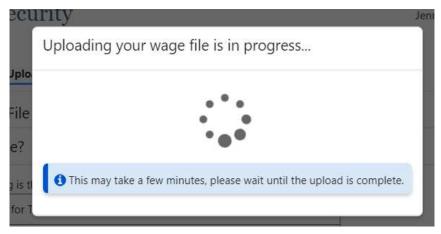
After selecting Response to a Resubmission Notice, the system displays the Response to a Resubmission Notice section. More about that in the Resubmitting a Wage File section below.

Click on the Learn more about this file format link to see this helpful description:



- 3. Use **Browse** to select a wage file from your computer's file system. The **Upload File** button will appear at the bottom left of the page.
- 4. Click on the **Upload File** button to upload your file.

If the file is large, the upload process might take long enough for an "in progress" popup to be displayed.

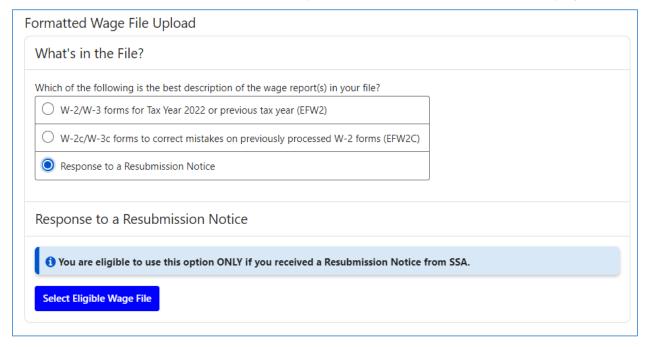


During file upload, your file is checked for the correct file type, size, and format. The data inside the file is also checked for errors. If your file passes all these preliminary checks, it will automatically be submitted for further processing and you will see the *Success Confirmation* page (see the Success section below). If your file fails any of the preliminary checks, you will see the *Error* page (see the Error section below).

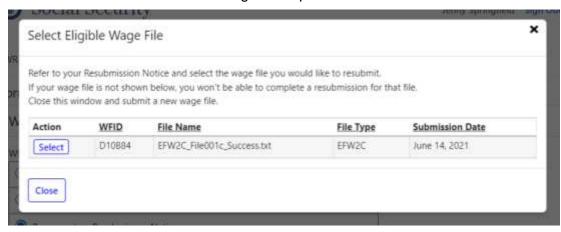
Note that some conditions cannot be checked during the file upload and could still cause a reject later in the process. You will be notified of these errors with a resubmission notice sent to the email address included in the wage file, if it exists. If the email address is not in the wage file, the system will use the address that you registered with IRES.

2.2 Resubmitting a Wage File

If you received a Resubmission Notice, you need to fix the errors indicated in your notice and upload only those wage reports that failed. The wage reports that passed have already been processed completely. After you have fixed those errors, return to this application, Wage File Upload, as indicated above. On the Formatted Wage File Upload page, select the Response to a Resubmission Notice radio button. The Response to a Resubmission Notice is displayed.

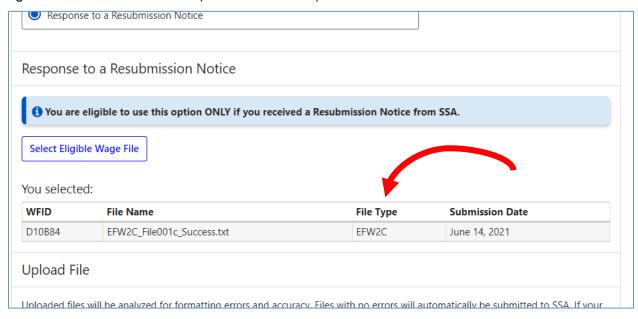


Click on the Select Eligible Wage File to see the WFIDs associated with files that have caused a Resubmission Notice to be sent to employers whose EINs are associated with your IRES registration. Only WFIDs associated with files that were uploaded under your user ID will be displayed.



If you do not see the WFID specified on your Resubmission Notice, close the popup and upload your resubmission as a new file (select EFW2 or EFW2C radio button as appropriate).

If you do see the WFID, select the file specified on your resubmission notice. The popup will disappear and a summary of the file you selected will be displayed on the Formatted Wage File Upload page. If this is not the correct file, you can click on the Select Eligible Wage File button again to select a different file (if one is available).



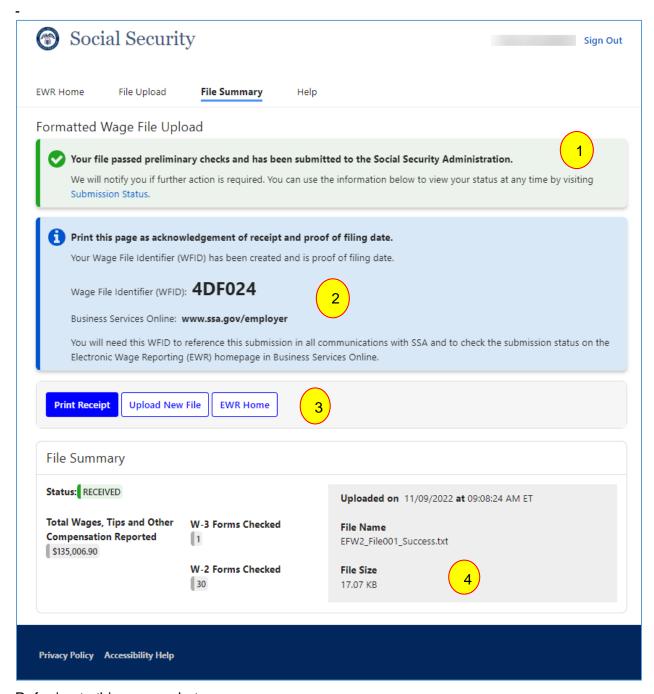
You can select only one file at a time.

After your file has been selected, upload the fixed file using the Upload File section as described above. The file you upload must be the same as the file type of the initial file. The rest of the process is the same as for initially submitted files.

On the Success page, you will see the same wage file identifier (WFID) as given on the Resubmission Notice.

2.3 Success

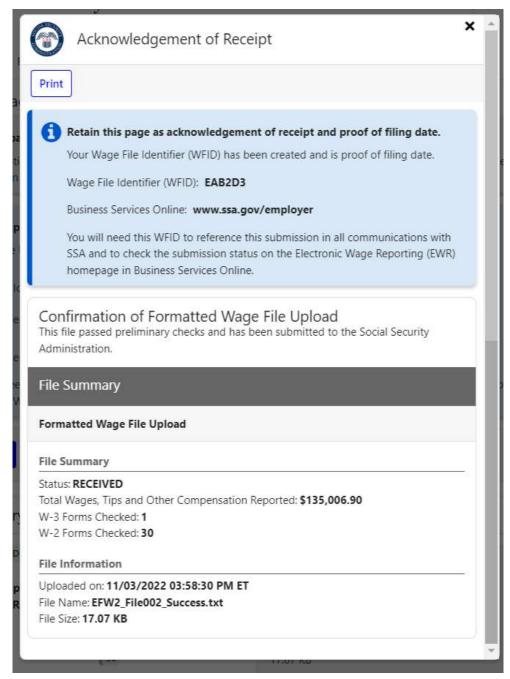
When the file passes all the file and data checks, the system displays the Success page.



Referring to this screen shot:

- 1. The green section at the top gives you the status of your file's upload. It gives a link to the submission status site for you to also check the status at a later time.
 - If you need paper copies of the W-2 or W-2c forms included in the wage file, please consult your software vendor about that feature. The Wage File Upload application does not provide printable copies of the W-2 or W-2c forms.
- 2. The blue section gives the wage file identifier (WFID), which is proof of your file's submission. The WFID gives you a quick way to check the file's status on the *Electronic Wage Reporting (EWR)* home page in the Business Services Online (BSO) website. You need the WFID to reference this submission in all communications with SSA.

- Actions you can take on the Success page:
 - a. We encourage you to print the success confirmation receipt. Click on the **Print Receipt** button. The *Acknowledgement of Receipt* popup is displayed and you can print the information. To close this popup, click on the **X** at the top right corner or click outside of its boundaries.



- b. To submit another file, select the **Upload New File** button in the middle or at the top of the page.
- c. To return to the EWR home page, select the **EWR Home** button in the middle or at the top left of the page.
- 4. You can verify the file upload by checking that the values in the File Summary section agree with your file: file name, file size, number of W-2 or W-2c forms and number of W-3 or W-3c forms.

If this information is not the same as the file information shown on your computer, contact SSA Support at 1-888-772-2970 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

2.4 Errors

During the file upload, the system attempts to check a number of conditions: file type, size, format, and wage data. If errors are found during these preliminar checks, you will see them immediately.

When your file has one or more errors, we are unable to process your Form W-2 or Form W-2C file.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

Step 1

Print or save the Errors page. The errors will not be available after your upload session is closed. However, you can always upload the same file again to see the errors without affecting your file's submission status.

Step 2

Correct your file. See SSA Publication 42-007, Specifications for Filing Forms W-2 Electronically (EFW2), or or 42-014, Specifications for Filing Forms W-2c Electronically (EFW2C). You can get them at http://www.socialsecurity.gov/employer/pub.htm on the Internet. Make any necessary changes to your file using the same format (EFW2 or EFW2C) as the original file.

Step 3

Upload all reports using BSO within 45 days of your original upload date.

POSSIBLE PENALTIES

You must return your corrected file within 45 days to receive credit for filing on your original upload date. Otherwise, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) may assess penalties. Visit http://www.irs.gov to view the IRS penalty information on the General Instructions for Forms W-2 and W-3.

Note that you can either fix the errors and upload the whole file again, or put the reports without errors in a separate file from the reports with errors. You can then upload the reports without errors while fixing the reports with errors and then upload the corrected reports.

For information on fixing specific errors, refer to our Online Error Reference Material at https://www.ssa.gov/employer/onlineerror.htm.

The deadline for initial electronic filing is the last day in January. It is the next business day if this day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.

WAGE REPORTING SERVICES ON THE INTERNET

- EMPLOYER FILING INFORMATION
 Please visit our employer website at http://www.socialsecurity/gov/employer for many resources. It includes registration information, forms, publications, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), contact information, news, and much more.
- ACCUWAGE

Although the wage file upload program now checks for errors before attempting to process the file, you might consider using our AccuWage service to check your Form W-2 (Wage and Tax Staement) and Form W-2c (Corrected Wage and Tax Statement) files for over 200 kinds of errors before you send them to us. Visit http://www.socialsecurity.gov/employer/accuwage.

• VERIFYING SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS
We offer a free service that lets you verify your employees' Social Security numbers.
Visit http://www.socialsecurity.gov/employer/ssnv.htm for more information.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

If you have questions, please:

- Visit our website at http://www.socialsecurity.gov/employer
- Send an email to employerinfo@ssa.gov
- Call us toll free at 1-800-772-6270 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday

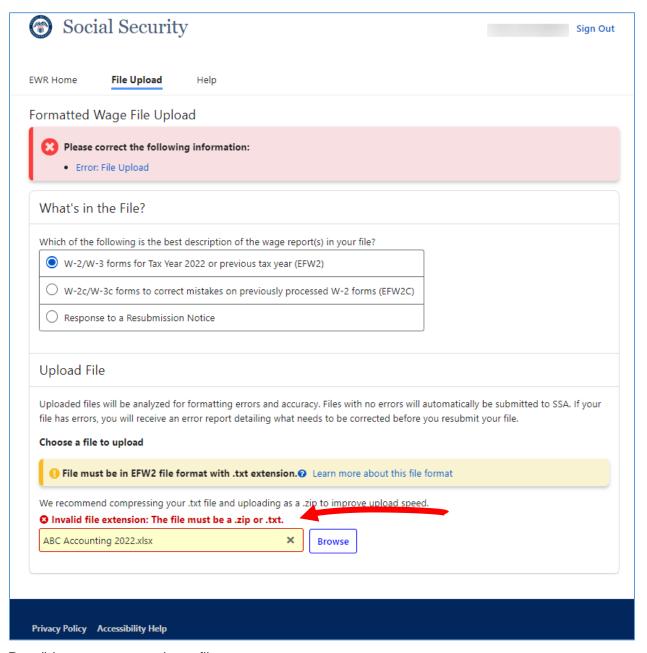
Email transmissions are not secure. We do not send personal or sensitive information using email. Please do not send personal or sensitive information in your emails to us.

Suspect Social Security Fraud?

If you suspect Social Security fraud, please visit http://oig.ssa.gov/r or call the Inspector General's Fraud Hotline at 1-800-269-0271 (TTY 1-866-501-2101).

2.4.1 Error on opening the file

If there is an error opening your file, you will remain on the *File Upload* page with the error displayed near the bottom of the page.

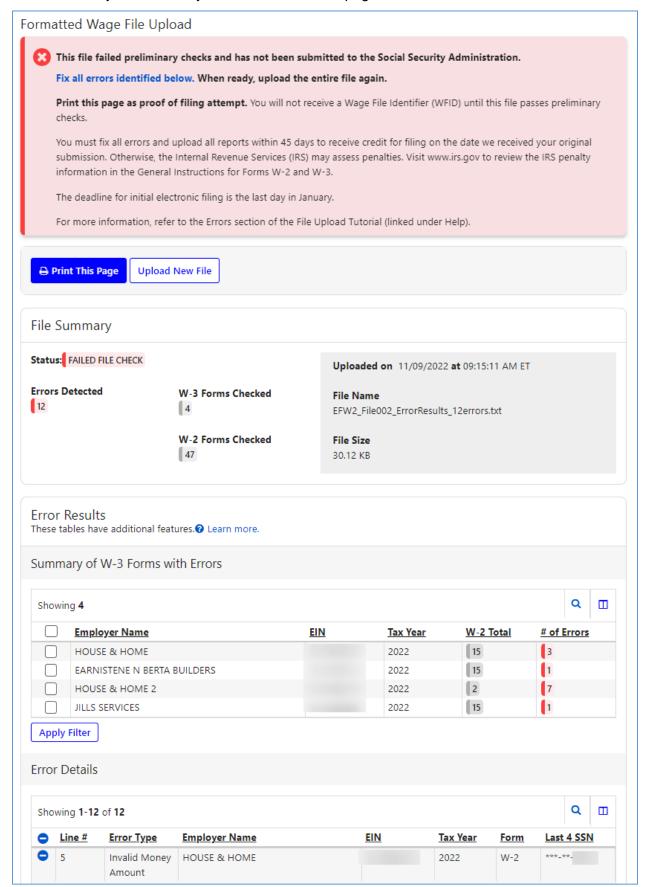


Possible errors on opening a file are:

- File extension is not ".txt" or ".zip". Your file must have a .txt or .zip extension. If zipped, the zipped file must have a .txt extension.
- Zip file containing more than one file or a folder/directory of files.
- Zip file contains a file other than a ".txt" file.
- · File does not exist.

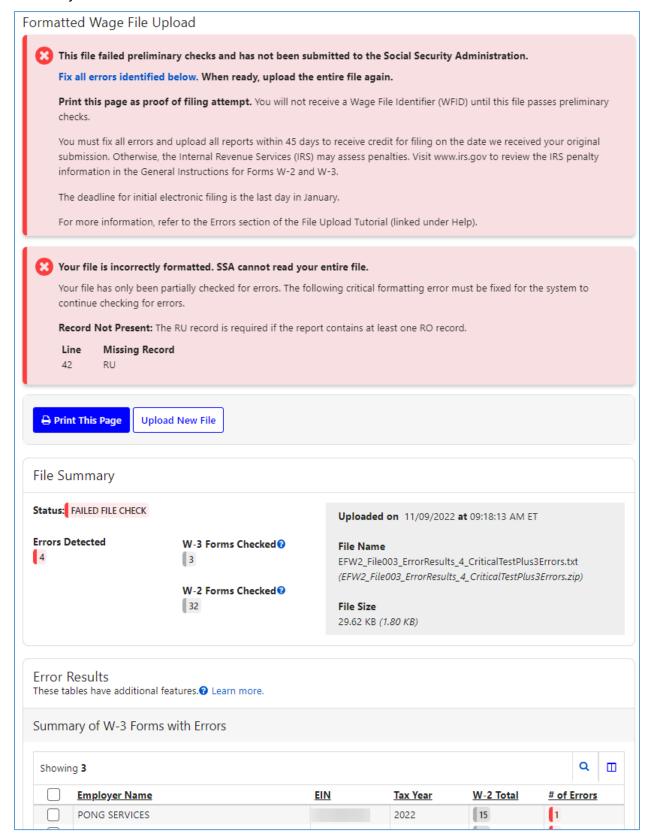
2.4.2 Error on wage data

If there are only data errors, you will see the Errors page. See below for details.



2.4.3 File format error

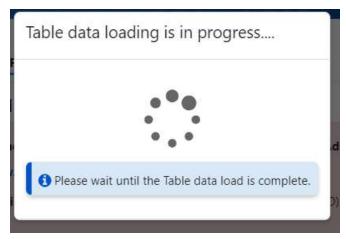
If there is a format error in the file, the system will stop checking the file when it encounters the format error. This is because the system cannot reliably read the rest of the file. The format error appears at the top of the page. If there are data errors, they will appear below the File Summary section.



2.5 Features of the Errors Page

2.5.1 Please Wait - popup

If your file has many errors or if there is a lot of traffic on the internet, you might see a popup asking you to wait until the table has been loaded.



2.5.2 An error has occurred

The red banner at the top of the Errors page tells you the file has an error and it has not been submitted. All errors are displayed in the Error Results tables below the File Summary Section. If the file has a format error, the system stops at that point because it cannot reliably read the rest of the file. If there are too many errors, the system stops at that point because it cannot display any more errors.

The file will only be submitted if it passes all the checks during the upload process. You must fix **all** errors and upload the whole file again to have it submitted for processing. You may print the page as proof of a filing attempt.

When the wage file has errors, you will see this red banner at the top of the Errors Page. If there are other complications (file format error, too many errors), you will see a second banner at the top of the Errors Page.



🔀 This file failed preliminary checks and has not been submitted to the Social Security Administration.

Fix all errors identified below. When ready, upload the entire file again.

Print this page as proof of filing attempt. You will not receive a Wage File Identifier (WFID) until this file passes preliminary checks.

You must fix all errors and upload all reports within 45 days to receive credit for filing on the date we received your original submission. Otherwise, the Internal Revenue Services (IRS) may assess penalties. Visit www.irs.gov to review the IRS penalty information in the General Instructions for Forms W-2 and W-3.

The deadline for initial electronic filing is the last day in January.

For more information, refer to the Errors section of the File Upload Tutorial (linked under Help).

Wage file has a format error



Your file is incorrectly formatted. SSA cannot read your entire file.

Your file has only been partially checked for errors. The following critical formatting error must be fixed for the system to continue checking for errors.

Record Not Present: The RU record is required if the report contains at least one RO record.

Line Missing Record

42 RU

Wage file has too many errors to display in the W-3 Summary section



X Your file has at least 1,000 W-3 forms with errors, which exceeds the number of errors that can be shown at one time.

The Error Results listed below may not include all results. Please fix all errors listed below and upload the entire file again.

The system cannot display more than 1000 errors in the "Summary of W-3 or W-3c Forms with Errors" table. Because of this limitation, the system stops reading the file when it reaches this limit. If your file has that many errors, there might be a problem in how your file is being created.

Wage file has too many errors to display in the Error Details section



🔀 Your file has at least 5,000 errors, which exceeds the number of errors that can be shown at one time.

The Error Results listed below may not include all results. Please fix all errors listed below and upload the entire file again.

The system cannot display more than about 5000 errors in the "Errors Details" table. Because of this limitation, the system stops reading the file when it reaches this limit. If your file has that many errors, there might be a problem in how your file is being created.

2.5.3 Actions You Can Take

You can print this page or upload a new wage file.



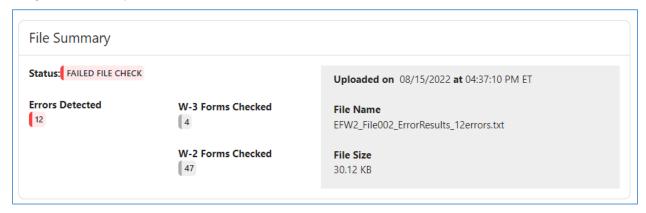
The **Print This Page** button uses your browser's print function. We strongly urge you to print or save this page as you will not have access to the information after you close this page. The only way to see the errors after you leave the Errors page is to upload the file again. Uploading the file again will not affect your filing status.

The **Upload New File** button takes you back to the *File Upload* page.

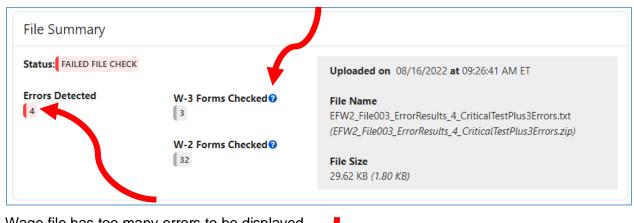
2.5.4 File Summary

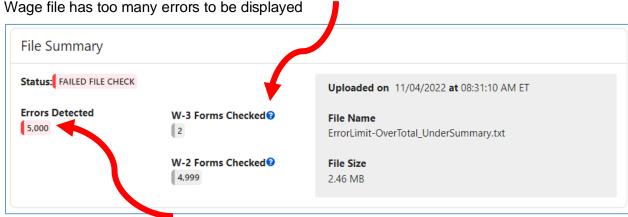
The File Summary section shows the file's upload Status, total number of errors detected, number of W-3 and W-2 forms checked, date the file was uploaded, file name, and file size.

Wage file has only data errors



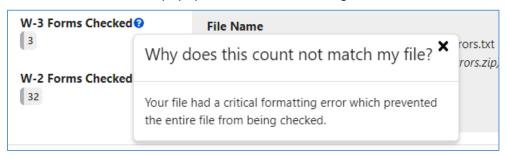
Wage file has a format error



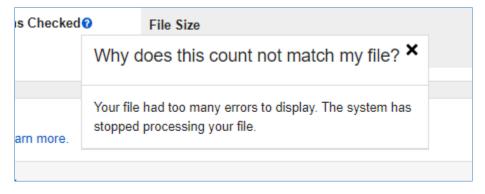


If your file has a format error or has too many errors to be displayed, the number of W-3 and W-2 forms (or W-3c and W-2c forms) checked will probably not match those numbers in your file. This is because the system stops reading the file when it reaches a format error or too many errors to display. The file might have more errors than shown. You must fix the errors displayed and upload the file again. If there are more errors, you will see them when you upload again.

Clicking on the o icon shows this popup if there is a formatting error:

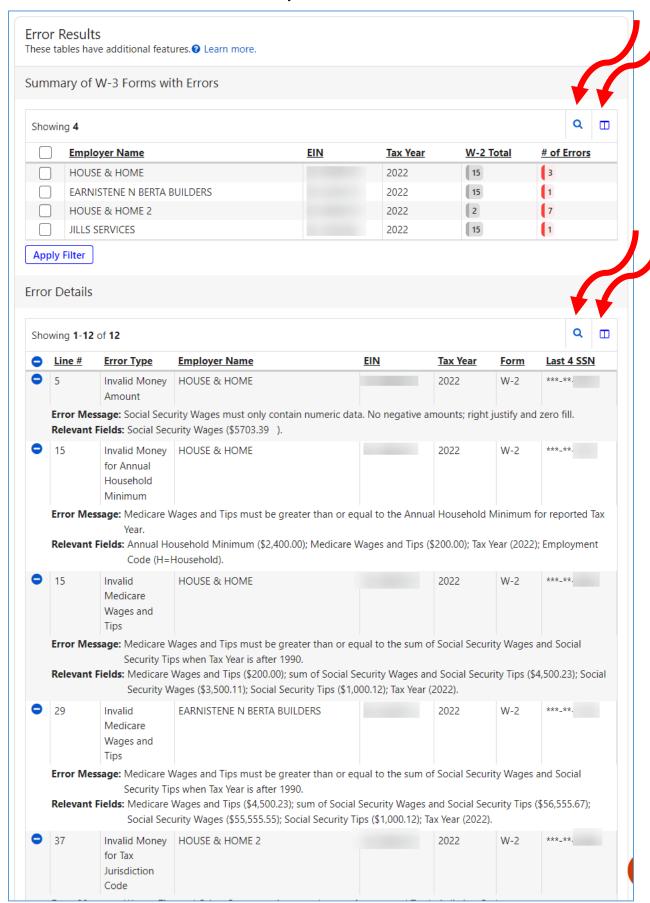


Clicking on the o icon shows this popup if there are too many errors:



2.5.5 Error Results

The Error Results section shows a summary of the W-3 forms with errors and the error details.



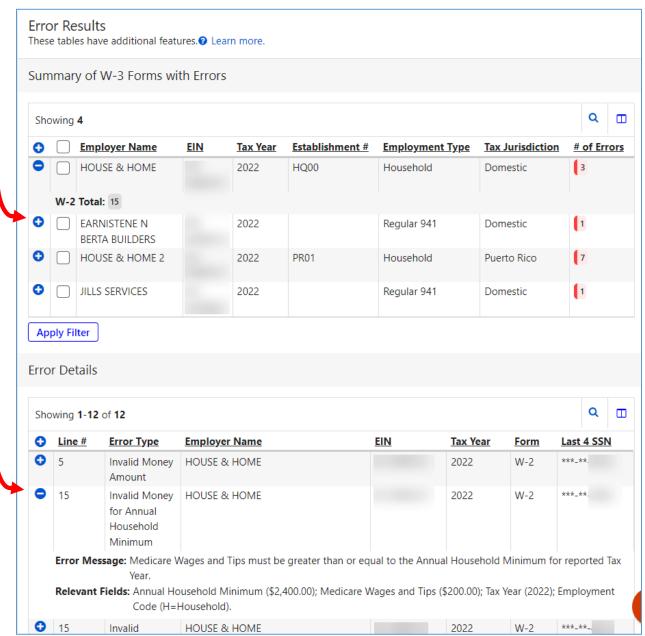
Both the Summary of W-3 Forms with Errors and the Error Details section allow you to:

- Click on a column heading to sort the table by the data in that column. The data is sorted in ascending order (A-Z, 0-9). Click again to sort the data in descending order (Z-A, 9-0).
- Click on the Search (
) icon to filter the table by a specific string of characters in any of the table's columns.



• Click on the **Column Selector** (□) icon to select the columns you want to display in the table

When you select all of the columns, you will see **Show/Hide** icons at the left side each line. This is because the columns wrap into the row.

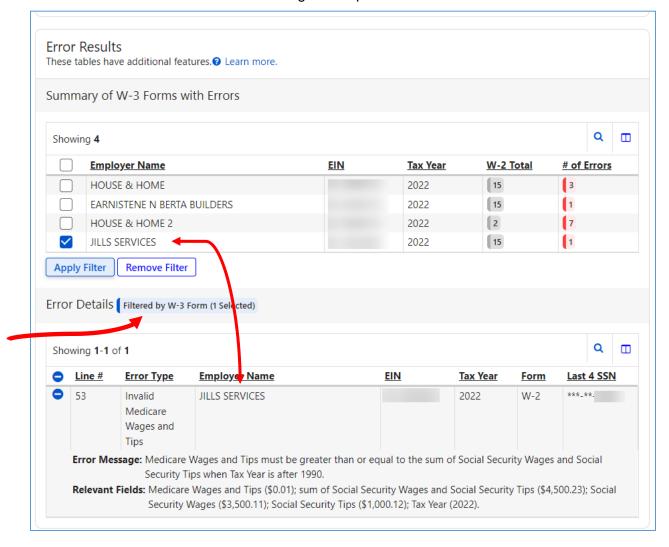


• Click on the **Show** () icon at the left to show all the information on a row. Click on the **Hide** () icon to hide some of the information on the row.

2.5.6 Summary of W-3 Forms with Errors

The Summary of W-3 (W-3c) Forms with Errors shows information about the W-3 (W-3c) forms with errors.

- The columns that can be displayed on the W-3 or W-3c summary table are:
 - Employer Name is from the W-3 or W-3c.
 - o EIN is the employer's EIN from the W-3 or W-3c.
 - o Tax Year is the tax year of the W-3 or W-3c when the taxes were collected.
 - Establishment # is a number assigned by the employer.
 - Employment Type indicates the type of employment.
 - Tax Jurisdiction indicates where the wages were earned.
 - Total number of W-2 forms (Total number of W-2c forms) is the number of W-2 (or W-2c forms) in this W-3 or W-3c.
 - # of errors is the number of errors encountered for this W-3 or W-3c.
- To see errors for only specific employers' reports, select the checkbox next to those
 employers' summaries and click on the Apply Filter button. The Error Details table will
 show only the errors for the selected employers' reports. It will also show that it is being
 filtered.
- To see all errors, click on the **Remove Filter** button.



2.5.7 Error Details

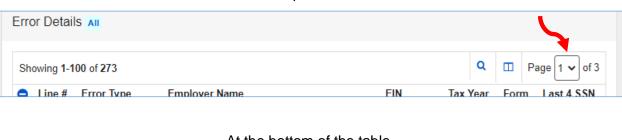
- The columns that can be displayed on the Error Details table are as follows:
 - Line # indicates the line in the file where the error occurred.
 - Error Type indicates the type of error that occurred.
 - Employer Name is from the W-3 or W-3c.
 - o EIN is the employer's EIN from the W-3 or W-3c.
 - o Tax Year is the tax year of the W-3 or W-3c when the taxes were collected.
 - Establishment # is a number assigned by the employer.
 - Employment Type indicates the type of employment.
 - Tax Jurisdiction indicates where the wages were earned.
 - Form indicates W-2 if the error occurred on one of the W-2 records (RW-Employee, RO-Employee Optional, or RS-Employee State).
 - It indicates W-3 if the error occurred on one of the W-3 records (RE- Employer, RT- Total, RU- Optional Total, or RS- State Total).
 - Last 4 SSN is the last four digits of the Social Security Number if the error occurred on a W-2 record. It is blank if the error occurred on a W-3 record.

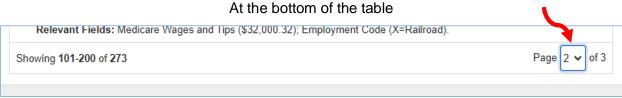
- When the file has more than 100 errors the Display rows per page dropdown is displayed.
 - The default is to show 100 error details at a time.
 - Click on "All" to display all error details.
 - Click on 100 to go back to showing only 100 rows at a time.



• When the system displays 100 errors per table page in the Error Details table, you can scroll to the next page using the **Pagination** icon.

At the top of the table





3 Appendix

3.1 Keyboard Shortcuts

To use a keyboard shortcut, hold the Alt key while pressing the shortcut key (Alt+key). For example, if you want to upload a new file, use Alt+u. The system will display the Upload File page. Mac users should use the Option key instead of the Alt key.

Page / Section	Button Name	Shortcut Key
File Upload page	Upload File	u
File Summary	Upload New File	u
File Summary	Print This Page	p
Success page	Print Receipt	p
Error page	Print This Page	p
Acknowledgement Receipt modal	Print	r
Error page (W-3/W-3C Summary)	Apply Filter	а
Error page (W-3/W-3C Summary)	Remove Filter	r
Success page	Upload New File	u
Success page	EWR Home	h